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Rochester
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HISTORY

OF THE TOWN OF

ROCHESTER, VT.

W. W. Williams

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By desire of the author, the following changes are made in this form, as they were received too late to be corrected in the proofs:

ERRATA.

PAGE 2, Fourth line from top, should read "*Wolcott*," instead of Walcott.

" 7, Tenth line from bottom should read "*lotting*" instead of letting.

" 8, Sixth line from top should read "*Wolcott*," instead of Walcott.

" 29, Seventh line from bottom insert "*to meet in*," after the word town.

" 31, Fifth line from top insert after the word years, "*the people*."

" 32, Fourth line from bottom after the word any, insert the word "*one*."

" 41, Eighth line from bottom write at the end of the line the letter "*a*" before *s* so to read *as*.

" 65, Ninth line from bottom, after the word morning, insert the word "*of*."

" 84, Eleventh line from bottom should be read "*lye*," instead of ley.

INTRODUCTION.

To the Inhabitants of the Town of Rochester.

IN compliance with the wishes of the town as expressed by a vote at the annual March meeting, in 1868, an effort has been made to furnish a history of said town, from its first settlement by the few pioneers who commenced making an inroad into the then primitive forest, up to the present time.

The labor of collecting, and compiling the material for the present volume, has been far greater than was anticipated.

Much of fact and incident relating to the early history of the first settlers is lost, as but very few of those who were cognizant of the transactions of that early period were living at the time this work was commenced; and of those few, a number have since died, not having lived to see the work completed to which the knowledge they contributed was so essential. Had the material been collected fifteen or twenty years ago, much of interest that cannot now be obtained with any accuracy might have been preserved.

As it has been an object to have this work authentic, as a history, much labor has been expended to gather all that could be collected that was reliable, and of sufficient interest to the general reader, to warrant its publication, and many a thrilling incident and humorous tale of pioneer life has been gathered, which for want of sufficient evidence of its authenticity, or an account of evidence of such conflicting character as to make it doubtful, has been laid aside.

If any errors of fact or incident appear in the following pages, it is owing to erroneous information. Recourse has been had to every available source for material. The memories of the few old people who could furnish anything by way of incident or anecdote, have been burnished up. The proprietors' records, the church records, the town records, in fact, every source that promised correct information on the subject, has been thoroughly examined, and the result of all this labor and research is now presented in the following pages, with the hope it may prove acceptable.

Your obedient servant,

W. W. WILLIAMS.

CHAPTER I.

1780—1788.

A GRANT for a charter of the town of Rochester, was obtained November 6, 1780, and the town was chartered to Dudley Chase and others, July 30, 1781, containing by charter 23,040 acres.

In 1780, John Sanger, Joel Cooper, Timothy Clements, James Guggin, and John Emerson, erected a shanty, or cabin, on the east side of White River, near where the Emerson bridge now crosses, and commenced chopping, working and boarding in company, on what is now the farm occupied by Gardner Bride, —being lot No. 4, east of the river. The old John Emerson farm being lot No. 1, west of the river. Amos Coleman's farm being partly in the town of Pittsfield at that time, (but is now included in the town of Roches-

ter,) being a part of lot No. 2 by the Whitlaw survey, and the Anthony Whitcomb pitch, east of the river. The farm now owned by Oliver Walcott, being lot No. 3 east of the river, and the farm now owned by F. C. Keyser,—being lots Nos. 26 and 27 west of the river. In the Summer they returned home intending to renew operations in the Fall, but hearing of Indian depredations in this vicinity did not return until the next Winter. On leaving to return home, they left a horse they brought on with them, a two year old heifer belonging to Lieut. David Currier, and their cooking and camp utensils. Tradition affirms that the horse found his way back through the woods to Barnard.

On their return to Rochester the next Winter, the condition of the shanty was much as they left it, but the camp had been visited by Indians during their absence, and the heifer killed. An old bake-kettle left by them had been used by the Indians to cook with, and then broken. The fœtus

from the heifer was fixed up in regular shape in an old tray, which was also left, and the tray and contents placed upon a shelf in the shanty, and upon the tray written with coal, was this sentence, "Eat hearty, men." The writing upon the tray led to the belief that the Indians were accompanied by Tories. The old tray was afterwards fitted up with rockers and became famous as a cradle. At this present writing (1868) there are grandchildren of Lieut. Currier, now living, who have been rocked in that cradle.

1781.

In 1781 work was renewed and a log-house, long known as the "House Commons," was built near the east end of the bridge, known as the Emerson bridge. This was the first house built in town.

1782.

In 1782 the first families, viz., David Currier, James Guggin, Timothy Clements, John Sanger and —— Haskell, moved into town. David Currier and family occupied the House Commons. During the season Dan-

iel Emerson with his family, consisting of his wife and four children, moved into town and pitched upon the farm now occupied by Austin Leonard, being lot No. 23 west of the river. Some stakes were driven into the ground, and a shanty built, in which they lived. During the season, the family, through fear of the Indians, used frequently to leave the shanty at night, and taking such articles as they could for a covering, hide themselves in the woods at the foot of the hill in the rear of the house, and spend the night sleeping in the open air.

The settlers having entered the wilderness to hew out a home for themselves and families, were necessarily deprived of many of the privileges enjoyed by the inhabitants of older settlements, and were subject to many privations. They must either pound their corn for bread or make long journeys to a mill. Guggin, having an acquaintance by the name of Whitcomb, living in Stockbridge, used frequently to visit him, and on one occasion they started on foot for Barnard

to buy corn, and get it ground into meal, bringing it home upon their backs. Being out over night, they stopped at a dwelling by the way, and not having money to pay for their accommodations, proposed to the woman to cook some of their own meal, and take pay in meal for her trouble. On settling with their hostess in the morning they thought the woman dipped rather deep into their meal, and took more than she was fairly entitled to, however they said nothing until they got away, when as they trudged along through the woods, the greediness of the woman in taking toll from their grist, formed the subject of their conversation, and after talking awhile, it was proposed that each of them should make a rhyme in commemoration of their being so taken in. Guggin commenced in dolorous strain,

> "For one little bannock baked on a peal,
> Snucks went a quart o' meal."

Whitcomb replied,

> "The woman being obliged to hasten,
> Crowded the meal and shook the basin."

During this season the first division of hundred acre lots, more or less, quantity for quality, was surveyed and laid out. In laying out lots, allowance was made for all future public roads in each and every lot. Lot No. 28, west of the river, was laid out for the public worship of God. Lot No. 10, north of the Branch, for the encouragement of building mills, with the mill privilege and ten acres on the opposite side of the Branch. Lot No. 29, west of the river, was laid out for a town school.

1783.

April 23, 1783, the proprietors assessed a tax for the purpose of building roads to be worked out by the first day of October, 1783. The first tavern kept in town was by Timothy Clements, nearly opposite where the lower mill school house now stands. The house is now standing, having been somewhat remodeled, and is now occupied by M. Parmeter. At this time there was a bridle path through the forest from Royalton to Rochester. North of Rochester and through

to Warren and Waitsfield, the only guide being by marked trees.

1784.

In June, 1784, it appeared that some were delinquent in working out their highway tax, and it was "voted by the proprietors that the delinquents have one month to work out their arrears, and if not worked out by that time all delinquent rights were to be sold, and a committee of five was appointed to see that the aforesaid delinquent money was worked out at 6*s.* per day, each man finding himself, and provisions, and tools."

A tax of forty shillings on each right was raised to pay for letting out the remainder of the town. In the survey of the town no field book has been preserved, but the course of White river gave the outline of the first, and all subsequent surveys, and the course of the Branch, was regarded in the Westerly part of the town, in order that lots should not be cut by large streams. It has been considered as a rather singular circumstance that the East mountain, which divides the

great and little hollows, runs so nearly parallel to the head line of the river lots, as not to vary seventy rods in the entire length of the town.

July 1. The proprietors "voted that the first five women in town, viz., Rebecca Currier, Mrs. Ruth Guggin, Mrs. Eunice Haskell, Mrs. Jemima Clements, and Eunice Sanger, have one hundred acres of land each in the second division of hundred acre lots." Also, "voted one hundred acres of land to Lieut. Currier's twins, Frederick and William by name, to be equally divided between them—being the first children born in town." Also, "voted, that the same committee that lays out the second division lots, lay out fifty acres of land in some convenient place in said town for Dorcas Currier, as a gift for her early attendance in said town as a nurse," and the committee pitched fifty acres of land on the south side of the West Branch of the White River. The lot was marked No. 9, on the Branch when the first division lots were laid out, to extend back so as to contain fifty

acres, and tradition says, Dorcas Currier sold the said fifty acres for the sum of twenty dollars.

The first apple trees set out in town are now standing, and in bearing condition, upon the meadow now owned by Oliver Walcott, lot No. 3, east of the river. In December, the proprietors chose a committee to petition the General Assembly for a redress of grievances in relation to the establishing of the town lines, as the conflicting interests in relation to the town-lines retards the speedy settlement of the town.

1785.

In December, 1785, a highway tax of one pound two and six pence was assessed upon each right, to be worked out before the fifteenth of the next July, at four shillings and six pence per day. They also "voted an additional hundred acres of land to encourage the building of mills in said town," and chose a committee to agree with some person to build the same.

The first settlers were obliged to go to

Bethel, Barnard, and in some instances to Hartford, to Mill. Dea. Sparhawk had a horse and used to go mill at Bethel for quite a portion of the community. He would go down the river to Break-neck brook, thence follow up the brook and over the hill to Bethel, and the inhabitants paid him two days work for himself and horse to mill, and, he carried three bushels at a time.

1786.

In November, the proprietors "voted to accept of Mr. Ebenezer Burnham's offer of four acres of land for the use of the town to be improved for a Meeting-house plat, Church yard, and Common." Also, voted a tax of five days highway work to each proprietor's right.

1787.

The proprietors settled with Stephen Chandler and others, for surveying the Common, October 30.

The first saw and grist mill were built by Enoch Emerson, in 1786 and 1787, on the Branch, not far from where Lyman Emerson

now lives, being on lot No. 10, north of the Branch.

1788.

June 3d, the proprietors voted as follows, "Voted, to accept the mill that is made by Enoch Emerson in Rochester, and give order for the prudential committee to give him a sufficient title to all the land laid out and voted to be laid out, for the encouragement of building mills aforesaid in the name and in behalf of the proprietors," (210 acres and the mill privilege.) Also, "voted three days work to each proprietor's right to build bridges across White River, at four shillings per day."

If any one failed to pay the taxes assessed their rights were sold at auction, and instances are on record where two hundred acres of land were sold to pay a six shilling tax and costs.

Fish, and especially trout, were abundant in all the streams, and were quite a source of sustenance to the inhabitants. Salmon having made their way up from the waters of

the Connecticut, previous to the erection of dams, were more or less plenty in White River. Fishing by the inhabitants was very common and the history of some of the feats of the most *lucky* and *heroic* anglers of that day has been anecdotally handed down to the present time, among which are the following :—

Thomas Currier took from the river near the "House Commons," with a spear, a salmon weighing twenty-four pounds. Dr. Retire Trask secured a salmon in early day in the river near the village, when the salmon was in shoal water *in transitu* up the river, weighing some twenty pounds. Capt Ebenezer Martin used to enjoy the recital of a fishing excursion in which he was the hero in an early day. On a day, favorable as he thought for angling, he started out with an outfit suitable for a man of his bulk (being a corpulent young man) consisting of a strong hook and line, a large box of tempting bait for the finny tribe, and made for the river, and after passing up and down a long time without

any mentionable success, he became impatient and disgusted with such *dry luck*, and when about to relinquish the enterprise, he espied at a point in the river near the Coleman farm, some deep water near the bank of river with a *dark and forbidding bottom*, surrounded in part with flood-wood. "Luck here or nowhere," said he to himself. Then loading down his hook with bait, he mounted on the flood-wood, threw in the line, and waited the result. Soon he was startled by a BIG BITE. He hauled to, with all his might, but "*no come.*" Eager to get a glimpse of the guest whom he had invited to dine at the point of the hook, he leaned forward to an equipoise, when his guest beneath, moved no doubt, by his early training in the joking schools of the land of wooden nutmegs, invited his host to the repast by a sudden and strong jerk of the line which relieved him of his balance, plunging him head foremost down into the mud and mire beneath. Neither daunted nor discouraged, while he was "top half of the time," he

held fast the line, and with many a hard struggle made his away ashore spouting like a harpooned whale, drawing after him a salmon of a weight which never led the captain to regret, though he never could forget, the sensations of perpendicular immersion.

Wild animals abounded in the forest. Moose were sometimes killed by shooting them when they came to the river to drink. Bears were abundant in the forest and very bold. One, intent on having a time, called at Stephen Chandler's, attacked a hive of bees, upset the hive, entered the barn-yard, chased the young cattle and escaped, though seen by some of the members of the family. Not far from the year 1800, an animal was heard to bellow so terribly, as to arouse the whole neighborhood. The men ran to ascertain the trouble, and found a bear had attacked a two year old heifer belonging to John Emerson. The heifer was terribly lacerated and torn, but not killed. A log trap was set by John Emerson and Thomas Currier, the bear caught, and when dressed, he weighed

three hundred and eighteen pounds. Deer were very plenty and easily taken, furnishing the inhabitants with venison.

Money being scarce at this time, and little or no surplus of produce for a foreign market, business transanctions were mainly confined to the neighborhood, and consisted largely in the exchange of commodities one with another. Guggin, however, (as tradition has it) hearing that live deer brought a high price abroad, being tired of slow and small profits, conceived the idea of suddenly advancing his fortune, by the capture and sale of these animals. Procuring a number of them, he rigged a horse sled and rack as a means of transportation. Placing his deer upon the sled and turning the rack over them, after giving directions to his family in view of his protracted absence, shaking hands with his neighbors, etc., he threw himself astride of the rack, and with a speed worthy of his cargo, made for some foreign mart. Before leaving the town behind him, however, sure of success and careless of po-

sition, the sudden cant of the old sled threw overboard both Guggin and rack into the snow-drift, bottom upward. The deer, as if fearful that the accident would be laid to their charge, made for the woods with a distance between tracks equal to that of Guggin from market, and were out of sight ere Guggin could regain his perpendicular and take a view of the situation. Retracing his steps, he arrived just in time, for a seat at the second table, declaring (in his opinion) no man was cooler than himself, amid the sudden wreck of fortune.

Wolves furnished a nightly serenade as they prowled around in search of any unlucky sheep or calf, which might happen to be left exposed without the fold, it being the custom of the inhabitants to fold their sheep and small animals, in pens covered with poles, with the exception of an opening in the middle, so that if a wolf got into the fold he could not get out. Wolves were frequently caught in traps, "Great Brindle Wolves."

In the early settlement, it was the custom

of the inhabitants to meet together at the "House Commons," on Saturday nights, and stay together over the Sabbath for mutual safety.

CHAPTER II.

1788—1800.

1788.

THE town was organized as a town in 1788. The warning for the first town meeting was signed at Stockbridge, April 30, by Asa Whitcomb, Justice of the Peace —the meeting to be holden at the dwelling-house of Ebenezer Burnham, May 15, when the following officers were elected:

"Lieut. David Currier, Moderator.

Capt. Timothy Clements, Town Clerk.

Capt. Timothy Clements, Enoch Emerson and Aaron Wilbur, Selectmen, and also Listers, and layers out of highways.

Moses Currier, Constable.

Joseph Boice, Collector.

Also three highway surveyers, three tything men, three haywards. Highway labor 4*s*. per day.

Voted, to cut and clear the four acres of common which Mr. Ebenezer Burnham gave to the inhabitants and proprietors of said town for the use of setting a meeting-house on, a burying place, and training field. Also, two acres of road which lies against said common, all to be completed the present year; provided, a good burn can be got on said common. Also voted, that the swine in said Rochester run at large this present year, provided said swine be well yoked and ringed."

The first blacksmith in town was Ebenezer Morse. His shop was upon the meadow near the river on the farm now owned by Hiram Hodgkins. Their method of shoeing oxen was to cast them with a rope, bind them thoroughly, and then proceed to set the shoes.

It appears from the record that Asa Whitcomb, Esq., of Stockbridge, who warned the first town meeting, was present at said meeting and administered the freeman's oath to twenty-seven individuals, and at the first

freeman's meeting holden in Rochester, at the house of Ebenezer Burnham's, September 2, they were the only individuals qualified to vote at said meeting.

The following is a copy of the record of the doings at the first freeman's meeting holden in Rochester:

"ROCHESTER, Sept. 2, 1788.

Then at a freeman's meeting held in said Rochester, on ye day appointed in the above warrant for said purpose.

1st. Chose Enoch Emerson, to represent said town in the General Assembly ye ensuing year.

2ndly. Chose a Governor.

3dly. Chose a Lieut. Governor.

4thly. Chose a Treasurer.

5thly. Chose such number of Counsellors as the law required.

Then dissolved said meeting.

TIMOTHY CLEMENTS, Town Clerk."

1789.

The first sermon or religious meeting of which we have any account was a lecture by

Mr. Bowman, of Barnard, September 13. The first house built on land adjoining the common was a log house near the southwest corner of the common, on the south side, where E. D. Briggs' house now stands; it was built by Cephas Shelden. Not long after, Mr. Shelden built the old frame house near the southwest corner of the common on the west side, for a tavern. This house has been recently torn down, and a new house has been erected near the spot by Chester Pierce.

1790.

At the March meeting the town voted as follows:

"Voted to raise twenty pounds this year to be assessed on the polls and ratable estate of the inhabitants of this town for the schooling of children, and ten pounds to defray the charges of said town, to be paid in wheat at five shillings per bushel, or in other grain equivalent thereto."

In tracing the progress of the inhabitants of the town of Rochester, one cannot but be

impressed with the earnest desire manifested in their acts, to lay the foundation for educational privileges for the benefit of those who were to come after them. At this early day of the history of the town, when it would seem it required all their efforts to overcome the various obstacles in their path, incident to subduing the forest, and rearing and providing a home for themselves, and those dependent upon them, we find them voluntarily taxing themselves double the amount for schooling the children of the town, that was required to defray all other town expenses. Their labors have not been in vain, for it was by such efforts and sacrifices that the foundation was laid from which has sprung that high standard of general intelligence prevailing among the masses, and for which the people at the present day are so justly noted. The town also "voted to clear the meeting-house common this year, between the fifteenth day of June and the first day of July, under the inspection of Capt. John Packard, each man to turn out on ye

day he shall be notified by said inspector to work on said common, and whoever shall refuse or neglect to turn out and do his day's work, shall forfeit and pay the sum of five shillings or one bushel of wheat for his day's neglect, to the treasurer, of the town for the use of said town."

Also "voted to exchange an acre of the meeting-house common in said town with Mr. Cephas Shelden for one acre of land, for a burying ground, adjoining to Mr. Timothy Morgan on ye main road."

The first physician or physicians, were Drs. Retire Trask and his wife, who practiced successfully together, and indeed there were some who preferred the doctress to the doctor. Dr. Trask and family moved into town in 1790, and he afterwards built the old Webber house, at the top of the hill, at the south part of the village, and kept tavern awhile. They were the principal physicians in town for nearly twenty-five years.

1791.

At the first census taken there were two hundred and fifteen inhabitants in town. The town was divided into four school districts by the selectmen, agreeably to a vote of said town. From Pittsfield to the bridge across White River, nearly half a mile south of the village, (it being the first bridge built across White River in town,) constituted one school district, to be called "the Lower District;" from said bridge up the Branch, including all the Westerly part of the town, to be known as "the Branch District;" from said bridge up the river to James Guggin's, including said Guggin's, to be called "the Middle District;" and from Guggin's to Hancock line, to be called "the Upper or Northern District." In the first book of the town records, page 441, is the following certificate: "This certifies that James Guggin is a professed Universalist, and is a member of the Universalist Society in Woodstock.

Attest, ISRAEL RICHARDSON, Moderator.

April 17, 1795. Recorded ye above this day. ENOCH EMERSON, Town Clerk."

This seems to be the most prominent position ocoupied by Guggin, save what eccentricities, (about which many stories are told), gave him. He was an illiterate and eccentric character. Being located in the woods, of course lonely, he was in the habit of making calls on Asa Whitcomb, Esq., at Stockbridge, the adjoining town down the river, he being a man of lively and musical turn of mind, and somewhat of a poetic genius, with whom to associate in his lonely hours, and from whom he had the promise of an epitaph. Guggin was slovenly in his dress, wore a lamb-skin wool cap, short breeches, generally ragged, long stockings not gartered or buckled up, and shoes, his stockings generally drawn around his ankles. When speaking of returning to Rochester he invariably expressed himself as, "going up to to'ther town."

One day when Guggin made his usual call, Whitcomb said to him, "I have got your

epitaph, Guggin." "Have you, fact?" says Guggin, "let us have it." The epitaph was repeated to him, taking him off in wardrobe and expression as follows:

"Beneath this sod, if you chance to dig,
You'll find an old man, with a lambskin wig,
His breeches torn, his stockings down,
His soul gone 'up to to'ther town.'"

"Pshaw, I won't have it," quoth Guggin.

1792.

At the March meeting it was "voted to buy a piece of land of Mr. Sheldon for a burying yard, after the rate of five pounds per acre. Also to raise a sum of money sufficient to pay Mr. Shelden for said burying place, after the rate of wheat at five shillings per bushel, if paid this spring; if not, at the rate of four shillings per bushel."

The first goods brought into town for sale, were by Foster & Stacy, and a part of Mr. Shelden's tavern house, at the southwest corner of the common west side, was used for a store.

The first ashery in town, was built by

Foster & Stacy, on the west side of the road, in the hollow or gulf, between Gardner E. Richardson's and Ebenezer Wellington's. The grand list of the polls and ratable estate in 1788, was 285 pounds 5 shillings, and in 1792, it was 981 pounds 15 shillings.

At a town meeting holden June 7, it was voted to build a bridge across White River, near where Austin Leonard now lives, about two miles north of the village.

Also "voted to give liberty to a number of individuals to set a house on the common to meet in on Sundays, and to do public business in, and to remove it off when they think proper."

1793.

At a special town meeting holden February 7, the town voted as follows: "Voted to give the Rev. Mr. Howe three bushels of wheat per day for his labor among us in the ministry of the Word, so long as he shall preach among us. Also, keep or pay for keeping of said Mr. Howe's horse during the time he shall preach among or with us."

Also "Voted to pay the Rev. Mr. Washburn for his preaching here in town last fall, as a town, and at the rate of four dollars per day and be paid in wheat."

1793.

The first school of which we have any knowledge in the lower part of the town was in the house of Mr. Enos Morgan, a log house with two rooms only,—School taught by Rev. Mr. Howe. Mr. Morgan was a cooper, lived with his family and worked at his trade in one room, while the other room was occupied as a school-room. Hoop poles furnished ready rods for correction. Solomon's rule was literally and rigidly adhered to, in dealing with the urchins of that day. Some of the old people now living have vivid recollections of the manner in which the old priest wielded the hoop poles over their heads. The impression made was *indelible.*

The first pitch in North Hollow was by Dea. Bailey, on the farm now owned by Asa Eaton, and the first school was taught in

Deacon Bailey's barn by Miss Keziah Daniels, afterward married to a Mr. Billings. The first school in South Hollow was in the house on the Lyman Bush place, then owned by James Wing,—school taught by Hannah Meacham. The first school of which we have any knowledge in the village was in the old meeting-house, (pot-ash) on the common, taught by Hannah Eastman.

In March, the town "voted a bounty of ten dollars for each wolf, that any man shall kill in said town this year and bring a sufficient evidence of the same."

In April, at a special meeting, the town voted to receive and pay for ye house frame which a number of individuals obtained liberty to set on the meeting-house common in said town on Sundays, and to transact town business in. Also voted to raise forty pounds to be assessed and paid in wheat, at four shillings per bushel, for ye above purpose of paying for said meeting-house frame and finishing the same. This was probably the frame of an old pot-ash building, bought by individu-

als, and from this circumstance, the meeting-house was always called the old "Pot Ash Meeting-House." The bridge spanning a gulf between the ledges north of the lower mills having been burned, a special meeting of the town was called June 19, and voted to make and repair the bridge at and by the ledge, so-called, in said town, this year, and the job was struck off to Mr. Eliphlet Morse, at twenty pounds and ten shillings, in wheat at four shillings per bushel.

1794.

In the Spring, the town meeting was held at the meeting-house on the common. Until this time all meetings for public business had been holden at the tavern near the common or at private dwelling-houses. The meeting house was set in the centre of the common, with a fence in front, was partially and somewhat rudely fitted up.

The inhabitants thus far had been almost destitute of religious privileges. But very little preaching except as some minister who

was travelling might happen to stop for a Sabbath.

It appears from records, that from the first settlement in 1780, until 1794, a period of fourteen years, had enjoyed but twenty-six Sabbaths of religious worship, and one evening lecture.

In 1781, towns were authorized to levy taxes upon land, for the purpose of building houses of worship. We are not to suppose the legislators of that day were any more desirous of promoting and sustaining religious institutions, than those of the present day; their object being rather to promote the rapid settlement of towns and increase the value of lands and the preamble to the statute, recognizes this idea expressly.

In 1783, at a session held in Westminster, the Legislature passed an act authorizing towns to support the preaching of the Gospel, as well as the building of meeting-houses, by taxes assessed, not only upon lands, but upon the polls and ratable estate of the inhabitants.

This act was known as the ministerial act, and under it all property was liable to be taxed for religious purposes, according to the vote of a majority of the legal voters in town. The first action of the town of Rochester under this act, was at a special town meeting, holden February 7, 1793, and the town continued to act under the so-called ministerial act, until July, 1804, when at a town meeting legally holden, it was voted to form a religious society as the law directs, and the religious business which until that time had been transacted by the town, was thereafter to be transacted by the society.

Until 1801, the law considered every person as holding the same religious sentiments as the majority of the inhabitants of the town in which he resided, and liable to be assessed on his grand list for the support of such preaching as the majority chose.

In 1801, a law was enacted by which any could relieve himself from liability to support the preaching established by the vote of the major part of the inhabitants, by deliver-

ing a certificate to the town clerk signed by himself, that he did not agree in religious opinion or sentiment with the majority of the inhabitants. The record shows that about twenty in town availed themselves of this act by presenting their certificates, and having them recorded by the town clerk.

In 1807, an act was passed by the Legislature, divesting towns of all power to assess taxes for the support of the Gospel, either for preaching or the building of houses of worship.

1795.

It appears that Mr. Russell preached from December 21, 1794, until July 25, 1795. Meetings were not held in the meeting-house in cold weather, on account of the unfinished state of the house, but were held at private houses.

November 3, was kept as thanksgiving day, and is the first day, kept as a public thanksgiving by the inhabitants of Rochester, of which we have any account.

It also appears that after Mr. Russell left,

there was but occasional preaching for nearly three years.

The first clothing mill for dressing cloth, was built during this year, by Jonathan Jewett, on the brook, a little below the old Adros place.

1796.

During this year, Mr. Ransom preached a few Sabbaths.

1797.

The office of Constable having become lucrative was eagerly sought, and there were so many aspirants, the town was induced to make it a source of revenue by selling the office at auction to the highest bidder, and after it was struck off, then go through the form of electing the man as constable.

Great was the competition at times and it not unfrequently happened that the successful competitor was not the best qualified person to discharge the duties of the office, but qualifications did not enter into the arrangement save that the individual was required to give a satisfactory bond to the town for

the faithful performance of the duties of the office. Occasionally some ludicrous scenes were enacted. The idea prevailed with some that in order to make the service of a writ by a constable valid, the service must be performed by touching the individual upon whom service was made with the writ, generally by slapping them upon the shoulder with the writ in hand. It happened on one occasion that a well-to-do farmer who had but very little knowledge of legal process, entered with spirit into bidding for the office, and having outbid all competitors, was declared *constable.*

Reasoning from the idea of slapping an individual on the shoulder with the writ, he came to the conclusion that in attaching *property* in order to have the attachment of any effect, each *article* must be touched by the writ. Acting on this idea he succeeded very well, until it became necessary for him to attach an old sow with a large litter of pigs. The scene was a novel one, and he being anxious to do the thing thoroughly

and make sure work, went at it with all his might, and a succession of gymnastic feats followed with which the feats of the present day bear no comparison.

The old sow being first in order was now the object of the constable, and by cautiously working along writ in hand, he hoped to succeed without much trouble. Vain hope —for as he drew near the sow began to be a little suspicious, and changing her position eyed him closely, showing her ivory with sundry snaps of her teeth indicative of her intention to defend her young. Finding she would not allow a near approach, and being bound to put the thing through at any rate, he made a spring, and with a leap that showed his elasticity of muscle, striking forward with his writ, at the same time succeeded in his effort, but the effect of that leap and blow upon the saw was anything but encouraging, — for springing with a grunt and a wough that effectually startled the whole family of *little porkers*, they now with ears erect dodged and skulked in a

manner that sorely tried the mettle of the constable. His leaps became frantic, and, striking with his writ at every jump, he was emphatically beating the air, for the little fellows were on the alert, and when he struck where "they was," they were not there. It was sweaty work. At last he chanced to hit one. So much gained, but his efforts were exhaustive; such a strain upon the physical man could not long be endured; he puffed and blowed like a huge bellows. Something else must be tried; there must be a change of tactics. Being fertile in expedients, he soon hit upon a plan. Taking a stone he tied his writ to it, and by pitching and throwing it at the pigs, he found it worked better, for he occasionally hit one, but now a new trouble arose; he could not tell which of the pigs he had hit and which not, and then to crown all, his writ was fast being worn away and torn. What should he do? His efforts had been tremendous, he must not be foiled now. Ceasing his efforts for a moment to wipe the perspiration from

his face, and scratching his head—as he was wont when any mental effort was going on within; an idea seemed to dawn upon him that if he could not tell which he had hit with his writ, no man could tell which he had not hit, and he would make return of service upon the whole.

1797.

It seems the agitation of the eight hour system of labor is no new thing, for at a town meeting holden August 16, after having voted to build a bridge across White River, it was "voted that each man who works upon said bridge, shall work eight hours in a day in order to be entitled to ye four shillings per day." In October, there was a meeting to sell pews in the meeting-house. The meeting-house at this time was but a roughly constructed affair. The floor was of rough boards, what were called pews, built next the walls, were of planed boards, high with seats on all sides. The pulpit, a high sort of a box, which nearly hid the minister from the gaze of the anxious, but little more

than the head being seen, while the boarding of the walls was so open that swallows flitted in and out during service, dividing the attention of the younger portion of the audience. It was in such a rude structure our fathers worshipped. Theirs were the stern spirits that battled successfully with the obstacles, and endured cheerfully the privations incident to the settlement of a new country in order that they might lay the foundation for those institutions, and secure to their children those blessings which have flowed so richly from their efforts.

1798.

The meeting-house was in such an un finished condition that on March 10, Deacon Sparhawk was engaged setting glass in the windows. Mr. Ransom was engaged to preach one year from May 6.

1799.

Mr. Ransom preached about half of the time during this year.

CHAPTER III.

1800—1820.

1800.

THE population of the town was 524. Grand List of the town $6,585 40. A bridge was built across the Branch near Joel Cooper's during this year, being the first bridge above where the Branch unites with White River.

1801.

The first public library was established, and the first book was issued March 1. April 23, the old meeting-house was moved from the centre of the common to the line of the common near the northwest corner, on the west side. The Spring opened with remarkable promise. On the 17th of May, apple trees were in full bloom, but on the 5th day of June there was a severe frost which destroyed vegetation. The cold was

so intense as to freeze both ground and water, and there was frost almost every night until the 13th of the month.

September 11. The present Congregational Church was organized. Enoch Emerson and Daniel Shaw, were the first deacons.

The town was divided into six school districts. At a regular town meeting holden in March, it was "voted that the inhabitants living on the centre turnpike road in this town, shall work their yearly highway rates on said turnpike until the proprietors shall get simple interest on their money expended in making the road; provided, it is not to extend to any extra highway tax which the town may raise to do a particular piece of, s a town."

1802.

At an adjourned March meeting, the town "voted to choose a committee of five to make by-laws respecting hogs, horses, mules, and sheep, and to make report in one hour." After hearing the report, the town "voted

that all horse kind, shall be restrained from running at large at any time, and if any horse or mule, shall be found running at large on the common or highway, he shalt be liable to be proceeded with, in the same manner as the law directs in case of a beast breaking into inclosure and doing damage. And the owner or owners shall pay for all damages done on the highway by such beast, the same as though it was done within inclosure." The town also voted the same restriction and penalties to apply to hogs and sheep.

1803.

The Methodist Church in this town was organized. Rev. Thomas Skeales was the first minister. The first meeting was holden in the Congregational meeting-house, September 18, at the close of the Congregational services. Discourse from the text, "They that have turned the world upside down have come hither also." The town of Rochester was embraced in the Barnard circuit. First class leader, Robert Huse. First

Quarterly meeting was holden in Calvin Morse, Sen.'s house, in the Branch district. Presiding Elder Thomas Branch. Quite a revival followed the efforts of the first Methodists, and the Church and Society increased rapidly in numbers and influence. The Church commenced with about a dozen members.

The Summer was remarkable for the prevalence of dysentery, which proved very fatal, especially up the Branch. During the month of July there were six deaths. July 27th, was a day of fasting and prayer appointed by the people of the town on account of the very distressing sickness prevailing, and on that day three children of Mr. Moses Flanders were buried in one grave.

1805.

About this time a stage route was established from Hanover, N. H., to Middlebury, Vt. and the stage was driven by a Mr. Dewey. Previous to this time the people were supplied by a post-rider, who distributed letters and papers from his saddle bags. The first

post-rider was Job Saunders. The first postmaster was John Flint. The post-office was in Shelden's tavern house.

1806.

At the annual March meeting, the town "voted to accept a deed of gift from Mr. Edmund Shipman, of a certain piece of ground which said deed covers, and to appropriate the same for a burying ground in North Hollow."

During this year the first carding machine was brought into town by Oliver Wills and Nathaniel Dunham, and was set in operation in the upper part of the grist-mill owned by Enoch Emerson.

The first leather tanned in town was by Esquire Eastman on the old Foster place. October 29, all that portion of the northeast corner of Pittsfield lying east of White River, was annexed to Rochester.

On this portion Thomas Hodgkins, George Martin and Anthony Whitcomb, pitched without survey, and commenced the settlement in 1786. The Hodgkins pitch em-

braced what is now known as the Tupper farm. The Martin pitch embraced the farms now owned by Granville Farwell and William Jewett; and the Whitcomb pitch embraced the south part of Amos Coleman's farm, and the farm now owned by Hiram Wing.

Six other lots were included in the portion annexed, embracing in all about five hundred and seventy-five acres. Also another portion fifty rods wide, by the Whitlaw survey, (so-called), making six lots one mile long, containing one hundred acres each, from the north side of the town of Pittsfield. As has been alluded to in a former part of this work, the proprietors and inhabitants of Rochester were considerably harassed by conflicting claims, owing to the overlapping of town lines, by the charter of different towns embracing the same lands, and redress was sought by petitions to the Legislature.

1807.

Operations were commenced at what is now called the Lower Mills Village. A dam was

built across the river, and a building erected for a grist mill. The machinery, etc., of the grist mill up the Branch was moved and set in operation at this place, by Enoch Emerson.

1808.

At the annual March meeting, it was "voted that the meeting-house be open for all denominations to preach in when there is no preaching of the Congregational order"

April 28, Mr. Blodgett was ordained and entitled to a lot of land appropriated for the first settled minister in town.

The meeting-house not being sufficiently large to accommodate the assemblage, the ordination services were on the common in front of the meeting-house. Sermon by Leonard Haynes, of West Rutland.

1810.

The population of the town was 911, and the town was divided into eight school districts.

1811 and 1812.

During the years 1811 and part of 1812, much labor was voluntarily appropriated to

level and prepare the site of the present Congregational meeting-house, and a more beautiful site for a meeting-house is not to be found in any village in the State. On 2d and 3d days of July, 1812, the meeting-house was raised. During the Winter of 1812 and 1813, the spotted fever prevailed to an alarming extent, and was very fatal.

1813.

The Congregational meeting-house was finished. The annual March meeting was warned at the old meeting-house. After choosing a moderator, the town meeting was adjourned to the new meeting-house, and it was voted to hold town meetings thereafter at the new meeting-house, and that warnings for town meetings be put up at that place. Also chose a committee to dispose of the old meeting-house.

1814.

The first record of the number of scholars returned to the town clerk's office is in 1814, and the number from the several school districts is as follows:

District.	Clerk.	No. of Scholars.
Branch,	E. Sparhawk,	99
South Hollow,	Daniel Paine,	64
North Hollow,	L. B. Chaffee,	102
Little Hollow,	Daniel Childs,	11
Middle or village,	E. D. Briggs,	58
Upper River,	Apollos Briggs,	50
Lower Meadow,	Gardner Chandler,	45
South Hill,	Joseph Boice,	12
Total,		441

First lawyer in town was a Mr. Huggins.

1815.

At a freeman's meeting holden in September, the vote for Governor was a follows:

For Martin Chittenden,	86
" Jonas Galusha,	84
" Galusha,	1
Total,	171

1816.

The season was remarkable on account of the cold weather. In the month of June there was snow on the ground most of the

time until the 10th of the month. On the 9th of July there was a hard frost. August 21, there was a hard frost which ruined many fields of corn, and the month of September was very, very cold.

1817.

A Baptist Society was organized. Elder Perkins was the first minister. Quite a revival commenced the year before and continued during a portion of this season.

The first saw and grist mill in the village were built during this year, by Charles Brackett, on the spot where the present mills, built by J. W. and G. L. Chaffee, now stands.

1819.

Until this year, the income derived from the rent of what are known as the minister lots was granted by the town to the Congregational Church and Society. At a town meeting holden March 2, it was voted "that the 25th day of April next be a time to divide the avails of the rights of land for the support of the Gospel among the several

societies; and the clerks of the several societies are requested to return the names of their several members to the town clerk for that purpose, for this year, and forever after this year, for each religious society to return their names to the town clerk, on or before 15th day of January in each year."

CHAPTER IV.

1820—1860.

1820.

THE number of inhabitants was 114 It appears there were twelve school districts in town, although but ten made returns of the number of scholars. Number of scholars returned, between the ages of four and eighteen years, 445.

The returns of the various religious societies were as follows:

First Congregational Society,	108
Methodist Society,	31
Baptist Society,	16

Amount of moneys divided among the several school districts $123 29. Amount of moneys divided among the several religious societies $105 00. Amount of State and school tax, $170 70.

It appears the old meeting-house was sold

to Luther P. Blogett in 1815, as a record is found January 20, of a note given the town by said Blodgett for the old meeting-house, and five years interest, for the sum of twenty-six dollars.

At a freemen's meeting holden in September of this year, the vote for member of Congresss was as follows:

Elias Keyes,	98
Horace Everett,	36
Scat,	2
For Governor, Richard Skinner,	72
Dudley Chase,	6

1822.

The Universalist Society in this town was organized January 10, at a meeting legally holden at the house of E. D. Briggs. The returns made to the town clerk of the number of members was thirty-three.

SMITH INGALLS, Clerk of said Society.

In the Fall, the dysentery prevailed extensively, and proved so fatal, that in the course of two months, there were forty deaths within the limits of the town.

1824.

November 10. All that portion of Braintree lying north of, and contiguous to Rochester, and west of the mountain, (not dividing lots), containing about fifteen hundred acres was annexed to the town of Rochester.

Another portion of Pittsfield from the northwest corner of said town, commencing about the middle of the south line of lot No. 3, by the Whitlaw survey, and running southerly, three tiers of lots, then turning westerly, parallel to the town line, and running through to the line of Chittenden, containing eighteen lots and the gore abutting on Chittenden, being about eight hundred and fifty acres, was annexed to the town of Rochester, November 15.

1825.

The belfry and steeple of the Congregational meeting-house was built by subscription, and the bell was given to the town to be placed in said belfrey, and there used. The bell was the gift of Mr. Elias Lyman, of Hartford.

1827.

At the March meeting, John Trask, Esq., was elected town clerk and was annually re-elected for a period of twenty-seven years, holding the office continuously from the time of his first election until near the time of his death.

During the year, the Methodist meeting-house was built by a union of the Methodist and Universalist Societies, each Society to be entitled to the occupancy of the same in proportion to the amount paid by each towards its erection, and in this proportion the Universalist Society was entitled to occupy it two Sabbaths in the year more than the Methodist Society.

1829.

In May, Joshua Ingalls, while ploughing upon the old Isaac Wing farm, turned up a tomahawk, the handle of which was rotted, but the remains of it were visible. The tomahawk was of steel with a thick coating of rust upon it, but otherwise perfect, and was carried by Mr. Ingalls to Wisconsin, and by

him kept as a memento. Heads of arrows of stone, and flints for guns have been found at times, which are considered as indications of Indians having passed through the valley of White River in early times, though there is nothing to warrant the opinion that there ever was a settlement of any tribe in this vicinity.

1830.

The population of the town was 1392. Number of scholars returned as of school age, 494. The amount divided among the different religious societies, $101 01. School money divided among the several school districts $285 51. Grand list, $10,296 89. Town tax, $561 76. State tax, $275 00.

At the freeman's meeting, the vote for Governor was as follows:

William A. Palmer,	143
Samuel C. Crafts,	47
Ezra Meach,	1
For Member of Congress,	
Royal M. Ransom,	93
Horace Everett,	78
Alden Patridge,	2

1834.

October 28, an addition was made to Rochester from Hancock, of two lots containing about one hundred and sixty acres. The said lots are now owned by Stillman B. Jones and Rufus Towle, and included in what is now the village of West Rochester.

1840.

The number of inhabitants was 1396. Number of school districts thirteen. Number scholars of school age, 469. Returns from the several religious societies as follows:

Congregational Society,	109
Methodist Society,	80
Universalist Society,	85

It appears that the Baptist Society had become extinct as an organization, no records can be found of any returns later than 1839.

Amount of town tax, $946 49. Amount of State tax, $323 18. Amount of school money divided among the several school districts, $193 13. Amount divided among the several religious societies, $101 00.

At the annual March meeting, it was voted that a discount of six per cent. should be made on all taxes paid on or before June training day, and on all that remained unpaid on that day, there should be no discount, but the six per cent. should go to the collector for collecting the tax.

The vote for Governor was as follows:

Silas H. Jennison,	209
Paul Dillingham, Jr.,	71
For Member of Congress:	
Horace Everett,	205
Truman B. Ransom,	67
Electoral vote for President:	
Whig or Harrison ticket,	207
Democratic ticket,	61
Liberty party,	8

1845.

It appears from the records that two religious societies were organized during this year, the Protestant Methodist, and Episcopalian.

1847.

At a town meeting holden March 2, the

question of License or No License, was presented for the action of the people, and the vote stood: No License, 132; License, 91. There being no further record of the Protestant Methodist and Episcopal societies, it is supposed they failed to keep up their organization.

November 10, all that portion of the old town of Philadelphia which was chartered March 16, 1780, being the northern half of said town, was annexed to the town of Goshen, November 9, 1814, containing eleven thousand acres; also three lots of old Goshen, containing about three hundred acres, was annexed to Rochester, and comprise that portion of the town known as West Rochester. Rochester being the natural centre of business for certain sections of territory, has led the inhabitants of adjoining towns which lay on the side of the mountains, and hills whose natural outlet was by the valley of White River, and whose business accommodations were more easily effected at Rochester than any other place,

to be desirous of being included in the town where their business was most easily transacted, and this probably has led to annexations of territory from nearly all the adjoining towns. The following is a brief statement of the territoral extent of the town in acres.

Number of acres by charter,		23,040
Annexed from	Pittsfield in 1806,	1,175
" "	Braintree in 1824,	1,500
" "	Pittsfield in 1824,	850
" "	Hancock in 1834,	160
" "	Goshen in 1847,	11,300
Total number of acres,		38,025

1848.

The town being called upon to give an expression of their wishes on the subject of License or No License, voted as follows:

No Licence 130 License 49

At a town meeting holden October 14, it was "voted that the town direct the selectmen to lay out and survey a public highway, on and over all that part of the Centre

turnpike road, lying and being in the town of Rochester, and that the town pay therefor to the Centre turnpike, such damages and costs as are assessed to said town by a Court committee appointed on a petition to make said section, and other sections of said turnpike a free road."

1849.

At a town meeting holden March 6, the town was again called upon to vote upon the the question of License or No License, and expressed the sense of the town by the emphatic vote of No License 173, License 36.

The town came to an agreement with the Congregational Society by which they secured permanently the lower portion of the Congregational meeting-house and fitted it up for a town hall; the interior arrangement of the house being so altered as to have a church room above and a town hall below.

The Methodist Society entered into an agreement with the Universalist Society by which they purchased their interest in the Methodist meeting-house, and the Univer-

salist Society built their present meeting-house.

1850.

The number of inhabitants was 1493. Number of school districts 16. Number of scholars of school age 522. Amount of money divided among the school districts, $428 50. Amount of town tax bill, $2,223 57. Amount of State tax, $516 46. Amount divided among the several religious societies, $107 00. Returns of the several religious societies as follows:

Congregational Society,	92
Methodist Society,	124
Universalist Society,	113

Amount of grand list, $3,447 05. The vote on the question of License or No License, as follows:

License, 35 No License, 174

Vote for Governor as follows:

Charles K. Williams,	162
Lucius B. Peck,	93
John Roberts,	2

Vote for Member of Congress:

William Hebard,	169
Jefferson P. Kidder,	84
Scattering,	2

During the year the Methodist meeting-house was altered and repaired, a steeple built upon it, and the interior arrangements much improved.

1851.

During the year a religious society was organized of the Second Advent persuasion. The organization was kept up but two years, and then became extinct.

CHAPTER V.

1860—1868.

1860.

NUMBER of inhabitants was 1509. Number of school districts, 16. Amount of money divided among the several districts, $495 00. Amount of town tax, $1,560 80. Amount of State tax, $752 09. Divided among the several religious societies, $107 00. Grand list, $4,288 13.

Vote for Governor:

Erastus Fairbanks,	177
Robert Harvey,	13
John G. Saxe,	6

For Member of Congress:

Justin S. Morrill,	169
Asa M. Dickey,	11
C. M. Davenport,	6

1861.

The commencement of the war of the re-

bellion, as might be expected with a people so truly loyal and patriotic as the inhabitants of Rochester, fired the public mind and brought it to fever heat. The anxiety of the people to learn the progress of events led them to seek eagerly for all the information that could be obtained relating to affairs transpiring at the seat of war; and in order that all might hear, and have an opportunity of judging for themselves, a daily paper was subscribed for to be read publicly at the town hall, whither the people repaired in crowds, coming from distant parts of the town nightly, and while the intelligence was being read, the almost breathless attention of all present testified to the intensity of interest prevailing among the masses.

The suppresed breath, the compressed lips, and that peculiar sternness in the expression of the countenance, on the receipt of intelligence unfavorable to the cause of freedom, told plainly the deep feeling and determination of the spirit within, while the enthusiastic outburst of feeling broke forth

upon the receipt of intelligence favorable to our cause, and which could not be repressed, was evidence sufficient that the people had entered with their whole heart into the work.

The freedom, ability, and earnestness, with which the various measures and acts of government, and officials, the movement of troops, the care, or as sometimes happened, the *want of care*, of the wounded and suffering were discussed and commented upon, was no idle prattle, but such as might be expected from a thinking, reading, and reflecting people, and proved theirs was no blind zeal but an intelligent earnestness, a high toned patriotism burning within them.

On the morning the 4th of September, a company of forty volunteers for the war left town for their appointed place of rendezvous. The occasion was one of interest. A large number of the inhabitants assembled to witness their departure, and with banners waving amid the cheers of the multitude, and with many a "God bless and prosper you," they departed.

How earnestly they were followed by the prayers and good wishes of those they had left behind, and their interest looked after, the record of subsequent events will testify.

1862.

The spirit manifested by the inhabitants of the town in raising troops for the field, was truly commendable. They did not wait for their quota to be assigned them before proceeding to raise volunteers, but were ever on the alert.

August 15, at a special town meeting warned for the purpose, the town "voted to pay a bounty of fifty dollars each to the twelve persons who had enlisted, (in consideration of said bounty.")

Also resolved, that the town authorize the selectmen to offer a bounty of fifty dollars each to those who volunteer to fill the quota of militia called for by the draft in this town, and also to pay the seven dollars per month guaranteed to each volunteer, in case the State shall neglect or refuse to pay the said sum of seven dollars per month

as extra pay, being the same as former volunteers received.

Under the call of the President for 300,000 men, July 2, the order being dated August 4, the quota assigned to Rochester was nineteen men. A circular from the Adj. and Insp. Gen.'s office, September 18, gives the whole number of three years men furnished by the town of Rochester up to that time as seventy-five, being an excess of nine men over her quota, leaving but nineteen men to be furnished by the town under the call of August 4, for 300,000 militia for nine months.

Under the above call twenty men were drafted, of whom thirteen paid commutation, four procured substitutes, and three entered the service.

1863.

Under the call of October 17, for 300,000 men, the quota assigned to Rochester was twenty-two. Owing to some misunderstanding and the mixing up, or overlapping of quotas under the different calls, it was claimed that a deficiency existed under the

call raised by draft, of ten men, and a claim was made upon the town for thirty-two men as its aggregate quota.

November 27, at a special meeting warned for the purpose the town voted as follows: To authorize the selectmen of this town to pay each volunteer under the last call of the President for 300,000 men, the sum of two hundred dollars as soon as such volunteer is mustered into the U. S. service.

1864.

Under the call of the President dated February 1, to draft 500,000 men on the 10th day of March next after, the quota assigned to Rochester was thirty-three, and notwithstanding but about four months had elapsed since it was claimed that Rochester was deficient ten men, we find a credit February 20, of fifty-seven men, giving the town a surplus of twenty-four men to apply on future calls, so that when the day of draft arrived, March 10, we find the town in excess of her quotas.

At the annual meeting holden March 1, the town voted to pay a bounty of two hun-

dred dollars each to nine re-enlisted men who are now in the army of the Potomac, three from the Gulf, and three from the 17th regiment, when mustered into the U. S. service and credited to the town.

Also "voted a bounty of two hundred dollars each to eight persons mentioned by name, as volunteers and drafted men."

It should here be noticed that although three men left town as drafted men, and so recorded in reports, yet they were not mustered into the U. S. service as such, but enlisted before leaving the State. The town also resolved, to direct the selectmen of the town to consult with the authority of said town, relative to future enlistments, and transactions concerning the same, and offer bounties and act their best judgment relative to it for the coming year.

Under the call of the President March 14, for 200,000 men for three years, the quota assigned the town was fourteen, and a credit to the town of twenty-one, leaving a surplus

of seven men, over and above the quota assigned.

Under the call of July 18, for 500,000 men, the quota assigned the town of Rochester was thirty-three, with a credit of eleven, leaving the number to be raised under the above call twenty-two.

Under the call of December 19, for 300,000 men, the quoted assigned to towns was computed in years of service. The quota assigned the town of Rochester was seventy-seven years. On the 31st of December, the town was credited with an excess of nineteen men, making the excess of years of service furnished by the town under all calls previous to December 31, eighty-one years of service, and in the month of January, 1865, three more men are credited to the town, being three years men. After December 31, the number of *men* are counted. November 8, at a special town meeting warned for the purpose, the town voted to raise a tax of two hundred and ninety cents on the dollar of the grand list of the town

to pay bounties to volunteers under the last call of the President for 500,000 volunteers, said sum to include the amount guaranteed to volunteers by the selectmen, and also the amount raised by subscription of citizens for said purpose.

In the Adj. and Insp. General's report, September 30, 1865, in the table showing the standing of each town in reference to all calls for troops from April, 1861, to September 30, 1865, the town of Rochester is credited with a surplus of eight men, over and above her quotas upon all calls made by the general government for troops.

The following is a summary of the number of the men furnished by town, for the suppression of the rebellion:

Volunteers for 3 years,	99
" " 1 year,	20
" " 3 years, (re-enlisted,)	12
" " 9 months,	16
Enrolled men who furnished substitutes,	20
By draft and afterwards enlisted,	3
Paid commutation,	13

Not credited by name,	10
Navy,	2
Rep. recruit,	1
Southern recruit,	1
Total,	197

Of these, one hundred and fifty-three were citizens of the town of Rochester. Bounties were paid before the close of the war, as high as seven hundred dollars per man. Quite a number of the citizens of Rochester enlisted in other towns.

Am't p'd by the town for bounties,	$29,250 00
Subsistence,	2 96
Services of recruiting agents,	202 81
Commutation paid by individuals,	3,900 00
Contributed by individuals,	344 75
Paid by inviduals for substitutes,	3,725 00
Contributed for the relief of the sick and wounded,	1,049 13
Total,	$38,474 65

These large taxes were paid with a promptness which indicated an earnestness of pur-

pose and a determination to succeed, and no sacrifice necessary on the part of the people was too great to ensure success. The efforts of the citizens were not confined to the raising of troops for the field. A constant, anxious, and kindly care for the brave who had gone to fight our battles, ever followed them wherever they were called to act.

A Soldiers' Aid Society was organized by the ladies of the town, who solicited subscriptions, and often met, and with willing hands wrought articles of necessity and comfort for the sick and wounded, in field and hospital.

The wants of the soldiers were eagerly inquired into. Large supplies were continually being contributed and forwarded where most needed, especially to those from Rochester, though their benefactions were not confined to our own boys, but with liberal hand were furnished to any whose necessities they could relieve.

No appeal was made in vain. The inhabitants seemed to vie with each other in their

efforts to relieve the sufferings of the soldiers. Numerous well filled boxes containing pillows, bed-quilts, blankets, bed-ticks, puffs, linen and cotton sheets, pillow-cases, shirts, drawers, sacks, slippers, towels, handkerchiefs, bandages, lint, dried fruits, etc., etc. Anything that it was thought would contribute to the necessities and comfort of the sick and wounded, was freely contributed and forwarded to various destinations in the field, to the surgeons, to the hospital at Brattleboro, to the New England Women's Auxiliary Aid Association, and to the wife of our esteemed Representative in Congress, Mrs. Justin S. Morrill, at Washington. The value of the varied contributions forwarded by the Soldiers' Aid Society amounted to the sum of eight hundred and thirty-two dollars and sixty-four cents. Money was raised by the several religious societies, and from the schools in town, to the amount of two hundred and sixteen dollars and forty-nine cents, and forwarded to the Sanitary and Christian Commissions.

Drs. Huntington and Belknap, of this town, attended upon nearly all the sick and wounded who were allowed to come home on furlough, and furnished medical assistance free of charge, until they were able to return to duty in the field; and their generous aid was not confined to volunteers from this town, but extended to the suffering soldiers in adjoining towns within the range of their extensive practice.

They also made several journeys to Washington, to take charge of, and assist on their way home, those who could not have been conveyed without such care. Their generosity is worthy of all praise.

The record of Rochester during the war is a noble record, and the sacrifices made abundantly testify to the valor of her sons. It is from the daring, the truly brave, who were ever at their post when duty called, who shrank from no danger, who scrupled not at any sacrifice necessary, that the largest proportion of heroic dead are numbered; and the sons of Rochester who have braved

the toils and endured the hardships and perils of the war, have nobly, though dearly, won a title to that proud distinction. For full twenty-five per cent. of all that gallant band who went forth in the full vigor of manhood, in the flush of health, and bouyant in spirit, have passed from earth. Their names are chiseled in enduring granite on the beautiful monument erected, in grateful remembrance of their names and heroic deeds, by the town of Rochester.

Of those who live, a number are maimed for life, and our country owes to all who survive, a debt of gratitude which can never be paid.

1865.

During this year the town purchased the new cemetery ground on the plateau of land a little over one-fourth of a mile south of the village, on the east side of the main road.

1867.

At the annual meeting holden March 5, the town "voted to procure and erect a sol-

dier's monument, the cost not to exceed the sum of fifteen hundred dollars."

1868.

The monument is of Vermont granite, from the quarry in the town of Barre. Being completed, it was erected in the Summer, on the centre of the Park in the village. It is about twenty-three feet in height, and is to be surmounted by an eagle of the same material, the whole being executed from a draft of the most approved pattern.

The following is a list of the names on the monument.

Lieutenant Colonel Henry A. Eaton,
" Ransom M. Towle,
" Charles G. Newton,
Sergeant Varnum B. Whitney,
" Erastus W. Ward,
Corporal Charles C. Beckwith,

Dexter Crossman,	Joseph Huntington,
Norman A. Brink,	William H. Jones,
Erastus S. Austin,	Jacob Messer,
Henry T. Goodyear,	Delos Parmenter,
Theodore H. Hall,	Franklin Pillsbury,

Fred Richmond,
Henry Simons,
Ira A. Stevens,
Harry A. Washburn,
Edward Morse,
Volney R. Flanders,
Elmer J. Leonard,
Andre M. Washburn,
George E. Whitcomb,
John F. Pearson,
George Allen,
Charles J. Bisbee,
Willard J. Bisbee,
Alfred M. Richardson,
Nelson J. Thrasher,
Charles F. Van Gilder,
Charles E. Alexander,
Charles Morse, jun.,
Stillman B. Smith,
Malcolm G. Kinsman,
George S. Laird,
John O. Whitney,
Elbridge S. Williams,
Charles A. Keith.

CONCLUSION.

IN tracing the history of the town, and noting its progress from its first beginning, under all the difficulties with which the early settlers had to contend, through its various stages up to the present time, with its great facilities for the transaction of business in all its departments; one cannot but wonder at the success which attended the efforts of those hardy pioneers in the wilderness; and it is difficult at the present day, rightly to appreciate the sterling worth, the indomitable perseverance exercised, the patient endurance manifested, and the heroic efforts put forth to overcome the many obstacles in the way of their success.

Attention was early turned to the manufacture of sugar from the sugar maple, which

abounded in the forest, and was considered as the source from which all their sweets must flow. Their method of extracting the sap and making sugar was primitive. With some, in selecting a place for boiling, their first care was to find a suitable tree for a holder or reservoir for holding sap. White ash was preferred, but spruce would answer. If they could fall a tree in the right direction, and so nearly level as to answer the purpose, without cutting it off, a great object was gained; but if they failed in this, a log was cut off, raised with a pry to the required level, and secured with blocks or stones. As it required a tree of the largest growth, they did not attempt to move it otherwise than to get it level. A huge trough was then dug out sufficient to hold, in some instances, fifty buckets of sap.

Others, in selecting a location, were anxious to find some giant tree which they could fall in a favorable position for boiling purposes, it being necessary in all cases to avoid low or wet places, and it was an object to get on

some knoll or swell of ground. Having a favorable position, a couple of forked stakes were stuck near the butt end, and a pole laid on from one to the other, from which to hang their kettles. The tree furnished a back-log to their fire, and as often as it burned through the stakes were moved along sufficient for another fire, and so on. Others still preferred a perpendicular ledge or rock, against which to make their fires, if they could find such a place in close proximity to their trees. Troughs were used to catch the sap. In making troughs for the purpose, trees of the right size to halve or split through the middle, each half being of suitable size for a trough, were selected. Balsam was preferred if it could be obtained. White ash was the next in preference. Spruce would answer, by burning or charring the ends, to prevent checking. In cutting the timber of suitable length for troughs, care was taken to cut the kerf so that each end would be alike. Having cut them and split through the middle, each half

was dug out as smoothly as possible with an axe. When all was ready to "box the maple," as it was termed, a cut was made in the tree with an axe at an angle slightly above the horizontal, and a chip taken out. Sometimes two cuts were made, the hewn points being nearly together.

Spouts were made of soft wood, not far from two inches in width, and worked out in a concave form on the upper side; the end being brought to an edge, and made to conform to the shape of the gouge used to make an incision in the bark for the reception of the spout, which incision was made just below the lowest point of the box or cut.

The method of boiling was to suspend their kettles from a pole with chains, then roll up huge logs as near the kettles as practicable, and smaller wood was inserted under the kettles from the spaces at the end of the logs. Evaporation was rapid, but with such rude fixtures, it could not be expected that very nice sugar would be made. In color, the sugar was dark and forbidding; but

"sweet" was the main thing they were after, and that they obtained. When through for the season, the troughs had to be placed in low places, bottom side up, and the ends covered with leaves to prevent cracking. Before Winter, with its snows again, made its appearance, the troughs had to be placed endwise against the trees where it was intended to use them the next season, in order that they could be found beneath the snow.

The scarcity of money, and the difficulty with which it was obtained, compelled them to almost entirely dispense with it as a circulating medium for the transaction of business, and led to a system of exchange of commodities or barter, the extent of which those of the present day can form no adequate idea.

The first article of commerce or that which supplied the place of a circulating medium was known as "Black Salts," the manufacture of which was entered into by nearly all the inhabitants.

In clearing land it was the practice care-

fully to save the ashes, gathering and then covering with bark to protect them from rain. Many, after chopping a piece, logged it off, piling their logs and making it work for the winter season to burn them for ashes, while others made it a business to cut and burn for ashes at all seasons of the year.

Their method of manufacturing "black salts" was as follows: after gathering their ashes, they were leached by having a number of leeches arranged in a row, and a long trough placed in front to collect and hold the ley from the several leeches.

The ley was then boiled down to a thick paste, and when of sufficient thickness, was taken from the kettle and cooled, and when thus prepared formed the leading article of commerce for a season, in fact, took the place of legal tender with the merchants, who took them freely in exchange for goods at the stores, and was for a season almost the only article that could command money, and that only in small sums. Merchants were in the habit of refining these "black salts," and

forming "pearl-ash," then taking them to market to buy goods with.

Pearlash was kept by the merchants to sell to their customers for culinary purposes.

Potash was also manufactured, the process being somewhat different from the manufacture of pearl-ash. From twenty to twenty-five bushels of ashes, would make about one hundred pounds of black salts, which sold at from three and one-half to five, and sometimes as high as six cents per pound.

As the land was cleared, wheat was sown and the land stocked with clover. The yield of wheat being as the area of the land cleared increased, there began to be surplus of wheat, which was increased from year to year, and with the clover seed raised, became prominent articles of export, adding considerable to the pecuniary resources of the town. Wheat and clover seed were transported by ox and horse teams to the city of Troy, N. Y., a distance of one hundred and ten miles, for a market.

Grain soon became current as a medium

of exchange, and was generally received in payment of debts. Taxes were sometimes made payable in wheat. The salary of the minister was payable in wheat. Contracts for building bridges, &c., were made payable in wheat at a stipulated price, and in some instances, damages for non-fulfillment of contract were assessed in wheat. The culture of wheat at the present day is much neglected and tens of thousands of dollars are annually expended for flour to the shame of the agriculturist, for the soil which formerly yielded so abundantly of wheat, can, with proper culture, be made to yield it *now*, and the fact that there are individuals now living in town, who have lived long and been successful in life, who never bought a barrel of flour for use in their families, having always raised and now raise wheat sufficient, proves the correctness of the assertion.

As neat stock increased and became plenty it entered largely into the general exchange, and was soon current in the payment of debts.

A large portion of accounts and contracts

were payable in neat stock, to be delivered on the first day of October, or grain delivered the first of January. When payment was made in neat stock, if the price could not be agreed upon between the parties, it was to be appraised by disinterested persons.

The first day of October became a day of considerable importance. Large numbers of cattle were driven to the village, as a general payment of debts contracted during the year were to be settled; consequently, quite a number of citizens were assembled, and it not unfrequently happened that a single lot of cattle would pass through the ownership of quite a number of individuals, each paying a different debt, until at last it would appear that a single lot had paid from one to five or ten. It also furnished a good opportunity for those who wished to buy, as frequently those who took stock for debts were anxious to dispose of it at the first opportunity. It amounted, in fact, to a general market day, and the occasion was not suffered to pass un-

improved by those who wished to mismate or swap cattle, and it proved a great time for matching steers so that the day was one of excitement and lively interest. Since the railroads have made the markets easy of access, and a ready market is found for nearly all the products of the farm or shop, business transactions are carried on principally in money. The period of "truck and dicker" seems nearly to have passed away. A cash value is affixed to all articles of commerce, and horses, cattle, sheep, swine, wool, hops and sugar, form the principal articles of export, each bearing a cash market value.

Names of Representatives

From the organization of the Town, in 1788, *to* 1868.

1788 Enoch Emerson,
1789 " "
1790 " "
1791 Benj. Eastman,
1792 Enoch Emerson,
1793 " "
1794 " "
1795 Benj. Eastman,
1796 Enoch Emerson,
1797 " "
1798 " "
1799 " "
1800 " "
1801 " "
1802 " "
1803 " "
1804 " "
1805 " "
1806 " "
1807 Oliver Mason,
1808 Enoch Emerson,
1809 Lemuel Richardson,
1810 " "
1811 " "
1812 Enoch Emerson,
1813 Oliver Mason,
1814 " "
1815 " "
1816 Enoch Emerson,
1817 Daniel Huntington,
1818 Enoch Emerson,
1819 William Powers,
1820 " "
1821 " "
1822 Enoch Emerson,
1823 Ephraim D. Briggs,
1824 " "
1825 Lyman Emerson,
1826 " "
1827 Daniel Huntington,

1828 Lyman Emerson,
1829 " "
1830 Ephraim D. Briggs,
1831 Stillman Emerson,
1832 " "
1833 Lyman Emerson,
1834 John Trask,
1835 " "
1836 Joseph F. Tilden,
1837 " "
1838 John Trask,
1839 Thomas Barnes,
1840 " "
1841 Barney Cooper,
1842 " "
1843 Thomas B. Martin,
1844 " "
1845 Thomas B. Harvey,
1846 William B. Henry,
1847 no choice,
1848 James Wing, 2d,
1849 John W. Chaffee,
1850 " "
1851 David Eaton,
1852 " "
1853 William B. Henry,
1854 " "
1855 James Wing,
1856 " "
1857 Sumner A. Webber,
1858 " "
1859 Joseph L. Morse,
1860 " "
1861 Artemas Cushman,
1862 " "
1863 Wm. M. Huntington,
1864 " "
1865 Chester Pierce,
1866 " "
1867 Chris. A. Webber,
1868 " "

APPENDIX.

Table showing the amount of Produce raised in 1868.

Hay,	6,749	tons.
Corn,	10,446	bushels.
Wheat,	884 1-2	"
India and Buck wheat,	2,697	"
Oats,	10,713	"
Rye,	269	"
Potatoes,	31,044	"
Apples,	11,907	"
Wool,	53,383	pounds.
Butter,	70,115	"
Cheese,	13,771	"
Honey,	2,278	"
Maple Sugar,	142,676	"
Hops,	43,944	"
Valerian,	3,100	"

Amount of live stock, January 1, 1869:

Number of Horse kind, 474

Number of	Sheep,	9,889
"	Hogs,	173
"	Oxen over 3 years old,	205
"	Cows,	674
"	Cattle under 3 years old,	984
Population in	1790,	215
"	1800,	524
"	1810,	911
"	1820,	1148
"	1830,	1392
"	1840,	1396
"	1850,	1493
"	1860,	1509